

REMARKS

Upon entry of this Response, claims 1-20 remain pending and are unchanged. The Examiner's indication that claims 16-18 contain allowable subject matter is gratefully acknowledged.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-11, 13-15, 19 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US 2003/0209217 (Hendriksma, et al.) as set forth on pages 2-5 of the Office action. He has also rejected claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hendriksma, et al. in view of US 3,742,921 (Rendine) as set forth on page 6 of the Office action.

Independent claim 1 recites, in part (emphasis added):

a central follower configured for engagement with the central lobe and rotatably supported in the passage by a shaft extending through the first bore and;
a first lateral follower configured to engage the at least one lateral cam lobe and pivotally supported on the shaft;

From this claim language, it is clear that the central follower and the first lateral follower are supported on the same shaft. As set forth in paragraph 0021 of the Applicants' specification, "The central cam follower 20 and the lateral followers 30 are supported by a single shaft 17 extending through a bore 18 extending through the side walls 14 transverse to the opening 15."

Hendriksma, et al. fails to disclose the claimed finger follower rocker arm assembly in which the central follower and the first lateral follower are supported by the same shaft. Instead, Hendriksma, et al. teaches that the roller bearing assembly 28 is supported by shaft 34, while the cam followers 46a, 46b are supported by shaft 40.

For this reason, independent claim 1 is allowable over Hendriksma, et al.

The dependent claims depend from claim 1 and are allowable for the reason set forth above with respect to claim 1, and for other reasons that are not discussed herein.

Entry of this Response, and reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-20 are respectfully requested.

The undersigned is available during normal business hours for a telephone conference should such conference be helpful in advancing prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard L. Kaiser". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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